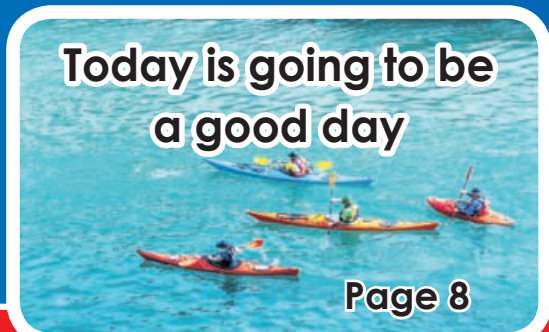
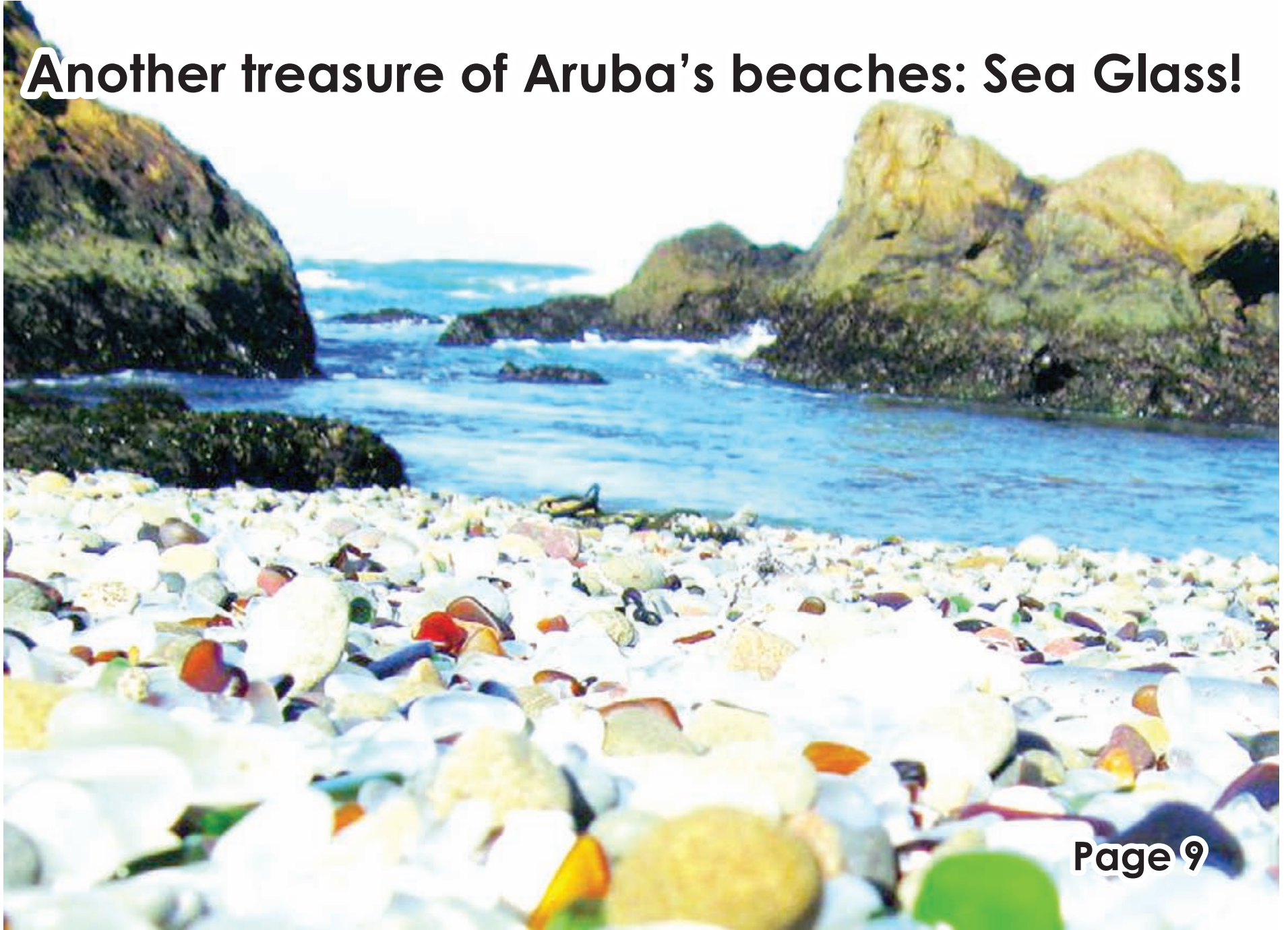




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FRIDAY:

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U.S. is sending an aircraft carrier to Latin America in major escalation of military firepower

By KONSTANTIN TOROPIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military is sending an aircraft carrier to the waters off South America, the Pentagon announced Friday, in the latest escalation of military firepower in a region where the Trump administration has unleashed more rapid strikes in recent days against boats it accuses of carrying drugs. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the USS Gerald R. Ford and its strike group to deploy to the U.S. Southern Command region to "bolster U.S. capacity to detect, monitor, and disrupt illicit actors and activities that compromise the safety and prosperity of the United States," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said on social media.

The USS Ford, which has five destroyers in its strike group, is now deployed to the Mediterranean Sea. One of its destroyers is in the Arabian Sea and another is in the Red Sea, a person familiar with the operation told The Associated Press. As of Friday, the aircraft carrier was in port in Croatia on the Adriatic Sea.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive military operations, would not say how long it would take for the strike group to arrive in the waters off South America or if all five destroyers would make the journey.

Deploying an aircraft carrier will surge major additional resources to a region that has already seen an unusually large U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean Sea and the waters off Venezuela. The latest deployment and the quickening pace of the U.S. strikes, including one Friday, raised new speculation about how far the Trump administration may go in operations it says are targeted at drug trafficking, including whether it could try to topple Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro. He faces charges of narcoterrorism in the U.S.

Moving thousands more



Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks during a roundtable on criminal cartels with President Donald Trump in the State Dining Room of the White House, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, in Washington. Associated Press

troops into the region

There are already more than 6,000 sailors and Marines on eight warships in the region. If the entire USS Ford strike group arrives, that could bring nearly 4,500 more sailors as well as the nine squadrons of aircraft assigned to the carrier.

Complicating the situation is Tropical Storm Melissa, which has been nearly stationary in the central Caribbean with forecasters warning it could soon strengthen into a powerful hurricane.

Hours before Parnell announced the news, Hegseth said the military had conducted the 10th strike on a suspected drug-running boat, leaving six people dead and bringing the death count for the attacks that began in early September to at least 43 people.

Hegseth said on social media that the vessel struck overnight was operated by the Tren de Aragua gang. It was the second time the Trump administration has tied one of its operations to the gang that originated in a Venezuelan prison.

"If you are a narco-terrorist smuggling drugs in our hemisphere, we will treat you like we treat Al-Qa-

eda," Hegseth said in his post. "Day or NIGHT, we will map your networks, track your people, hunt you down, and kill you."

The strikes have ramped up from one every few weeks when they first began last month to three this week, killing a total of at least 43 people.

Two of the most recent strikes were carried out in the eastern Pacific Ocean, expanding the area where the military has launched attacks and shifting to where much of the cocaine is smuggled from the world's largest producers, including Colombia.

Escalating tensions with Colombia, the Trump administration imposed sanctions Friday on Colombian President Gustavo Petro, his family and a member of his government over accusations of involvement in the global drug trade.

U.S. focus on Venezuela and Tren de Aragua

Friday's strike drew parallels to the first announced by the U.S. last month by focusing on Tren de Aragua, which the Trump administration has designated a foreign terrorist organization and blamed for being at the root of the violence and drug dealing that plague some cities.

Maduro on Thursday praised security forces and a civilian militia for defense exercises along some 2,000 kilometers (about 1,200 miles) of coastline to prepare for the possibility of a U.S. attack.

In the span of six hours, "100% of all the country's coastline was covered in real time, with all the equipment and heavy weapons to defend all of Venezuela's coasts if necessary," Maduro said during a government event shown on state television.

The U.S. military's presence is less about drugs than sending a message to countries in the region to align with U.S. interests, according to Elizabeth Dickinson, the International Crisis Group's senior analyst for the Andes region.

"An expression that I'm hearing a lot is 'Drugs are the excuse.' And everyone knows that," Dickinson said. "And I think that message is very clear in regional capitals. So the messaging here is that the U.S. is intent on pursuing specific objectives. And it will use military force against leaders and countries that don't fall in line."

Comparing the drug crackdown to the war on terror

Hegseth's remarks around the strikes have recently begun to draw a direct comparison between the war on terrorism that the U.S. declared after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the Trump administration's crackdown on drug traffickers.

President Donald Trump this month declared drug cartels to be unlawful combatants and said the U.S. was in an "armed conflict" with them, relying on the same legal authority used by the Bush administration after 9/11.

When reporters asked Trump on Thursday whether he would request that Congress issue a declaration of war against the cartels, he said that wasn't the plan.

"I think we're just going to kill people that are bringing drugs into our country, OK? We're going to kill them, you know? They're going to be like, dead," Trump said during a roundtable at the White House.

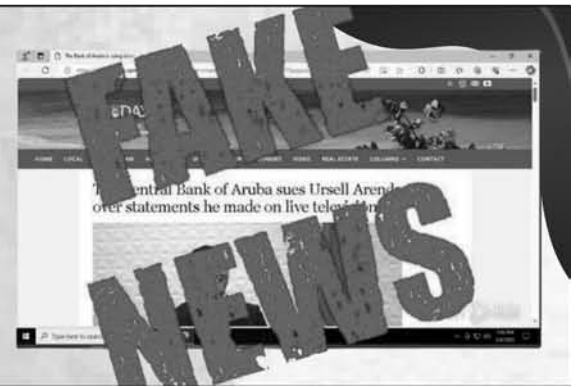
Lawmakers from both major political parties have expressed concerns about Trump ordering the military actions without receiving authorization from Congress or providing many details.

"I've never seen anything quite like this before," said Sen. Andy Kim, D-N.J., who previously worked in the Pentagon and the State Department, including as an adviser in Afghanistan. "We have no idea how far this is going, how this could potentially bring in, you know, is it going to be boots on the ground? Is it going to be escalatory in a way where we could see us get bogged down for a long time?" he said. □

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Social Security recipients get a 2.8% cost-of-living boost in 2026, average of \$56 per month

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Social Security Administration's annual cost-of-living adjustment will go up by 2.8% in 2026, translating to an average increase of more than \$56 for retirees every month, agency officials said Friday.

The benefits increase for nearly 71 million Social Security recipients will go into effect beginning in January. And increased payments to nearly 7.5 million people receiving Supplemental Security Income will begin on Dec. 31.

Friday's announcement was meant to be made last week but was delayed because of the federal government shutdown.

The cost-of-living adjustment, or COLA, for retirees and disabled beneficiaries is financed by payroll taxes collected from workers and their employers, up to a certain annual salary, which is slated to increase to \$184,500 in 2026, from \$176,100 in 2025. Recipients received a 2.5% cost-of-living boost in 2025 and a 3.2% increase in their benefits in 2024, after a historically large 8.7% benefit increase in 2023, brought on by record 40-year-high inflation.

The smaller increase for 2026 reflects moderating inflation. The agency will notify recipients of their new benefit amount by mail in early December.

Some seniors say the increase isn't enough

Some seniors say the cost-of-living adjustment won't help much in their ability to pay for their daily expenses. Linda Deas, an 80-year-old Florence, South Carolina, resident said "it does



The Social Security Administration's main campus is seen in Woodlawn, Md., Jan. 11, 2013.

Associated Press

not match the affordability crisis we are having right now."

Deas, a retired information systems network operations specialist, moved to South Carolina from New York in 2022 to be closer to family. She says her monthly rent has increased by \$400 in the past two years.

She listed other items that have become more expensive for her in the past two years, including auto insurance and food. "If you have been into the supermarkets lately you will notice how prices are going up, not down," she said.

Deas is not alone in feeling that costs are getting out of control. Polling from the AARP shows that older Americans are increasingly struggling to keep up in today's economy. The poll states that only 22% of Americans over age 50 agree that a COLA of right around 3% for Social Security recipients is enough to keep up with rising prices,

while 77% disagree. That sentiment is consistent across political party affiliations, according to the AARP.

In Deas' case, the MIT Living Wage Calculator estimates that an adult living alone in Florence, South Carolina, would spend per year \$10,184 for housing, \$3,053 for medical expenses and \$3,839 for food.

AARP CEO Myechia Minter-Jordan said the COLA is "a lifeline of independence and dignity, for tens of millions of older Americans," but even with the annual inflation-gauged boost in income, "older adults still face challenges covering basic expenses."

Social Security Administration Commissioner Frank Bisignano said in a statement Friday that the annual cost-of-living adjustment "is one way we are working to make sure benefits reflect today's economic realities and continue to provide a foundation of security."

Emerson Sprick, the Bipartisan Policy Center's director of retirement and labor policy, said in a statement that cost-of-living increases "can't solve all the financial challenges households face or all the shortcomings of the program."

The agency has been in turmoil in recent months

The latest COLA announcement comes as the Social Security Administration has been navigating almost a year of turmoil, including the termination of thousands of workers as part of the Trump administration's efforts to shrink the size of the federal workforce. Trump administration officials have also made statements they later walked back that raised concerns about the future of the program.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in July that the Republican administration was committed to protecting Social Security hours after he said in an inter-

view that a new children's savings program President Donald Trump signed into law "is a back door for privatizing Social Security." And in September, Bisignano had to walk back comments that the agency is considering raising the retirement age to shore up Social Security. "Raising the retirement age is not under consideration at this time by the Administration," Bisignano said at the time in an e-mailed statement to The Associated Press.

"I think everything's being considered, will be considered," Bisignano said in the statement when asked whether raising the retirement age was a possibility to maintain the old age program's solvency.

Efforts to boost benefits for seniors

In addition, the Social Security Administration faces a looming bankruptcy date if it is not addressed by Congress.

The June 2025 Social Security and Medicare trustees' report states that Social Security's trust funds, which cover old age and disability recipients, will be unable to pay full benefits beginning in 2034. Then, Social Security would only be able to pay 81% of benefits.

Social Security benefits were last reformed roughly 40 years ago, when the federal government raised the eligibility age for the program from 65 to 67.

While a permanent solution for shoring up the benefits program has not been passed into law, both the Trump and Biden administrations have recently signed into law new benefits for retirees, which are expected to boost their finances. □

Shots fired, driver hurt and held after truck rams into Coast Guard base in San Francisco

By KATHY McCORMACK
Associated Press

A truck driver who backed into a U.S. Coast Guard base in the San Francisco Bay Area the site of earlier protests against federal immigration agents was shot at by law enforcement officers and wounded, authorities said Friday.

The driver was being held for a mental health evaluation after "attempting to weaponize the vehicle to ram into Coast Guard Base Alameda" on Thursday night, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security posted on X. A bystander was struck by a fragment, treated at a hospital and released, the statement said.

No Coast Guard personnel were hurt, it said. They issued "multiple verbal commands" to stop, but the driver failed to comply, "suddenly accelerating backwards at a high rate of speed directly toward them," the statement said. "When the vehicle's actions posed a direct threat to the safety of Coast Guard and security personnel, law enforcement officers discharged several rounds of defensive live fire."

The driver was wounded



Police officers examine a U-Haul truck involved in a shooting at the entrance to Coast Guard Base Alameda, according to an officer at the scene, Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, in Oakland, Calif.

Associated Press

in the stomach and was expected to survive, the statement said. Homeland Security didn't specify whether the driver was shot.

The FBI was investigating. "At this time, the incident appears to be isolated, and there is no known current threat to the public," FBI spokesperson Cameron Polan in San Francisco said in a statement. No other details were immediately

released.

Video from the scene showed what appeared to be a U-Haul truck trying to back into the base.

"U-Haul is assisting law enforcement to meet any investigative needs they have," company spokesperson Jeff Lockridge said in a statement.

Earlier Thursday, protesters had assembled at the island, with many singing hymns and carrying signs

saying, "Protect our neighbors" and "No ICE or troops in the Bay," a reference to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the National Guard.

Hours earlier, President Donald Trump had called off a planned surge of federal agents into San Francisco to quell crime. Mayor Daniel Lurie and Gov. Gavin Newsom said it was unnecessary because crime is on the decline.

Separately, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents began arriving at the Coast Guard base in the region earlier Thursday for a possible ramp up of immigration enforcement, a move that drew several hundred protesters.

Trump said he backed off after speaking to the mayor and several prominent business leaders who said they're working hard to clean up the city.

That decision was in contrast to others made by Trump to send the military into Democratic-run cities over fierce resistance from mayors and governors.

The deployment of National Guard troops on the streets of Washington faced challenges in two courts on Friday — one in the nation's capital and another in West Virginia while across the country a judge in Portland, Oregon, was considering whether to let Trump deploy troops there. Deployment remains blocked in the Chicago area.

Coast Guard Island is a 67-acre (27-hectare) human-made island formed in 1913 in the Oakland Estuary between Oakland and Alameda. □

U.S. says it now plans to deport Abrego Garcia to Liberia as soon as Oct. 31

BALTIMORE (AP) — The U.S. government plans to deport Kilmar Abrego Garcia to Liberia, and could do so as early as Oct. 31, according to a Friday court filing.

The Salvadoran national's case has become a magnet for opposition to President Donald Trump's immigration policies since he was mistakenly deported to El Salvador, in violation of a settlement agreement. He was returned to the U.S. in June after the U.S. Supreme Court said the administration had to work to bring him back. Since he cannot be re-deported to El Salvador, ICE has been seeking to deport him to a series of

African countries.

Meanwhile, a federal judge in Maryland has previously barred his immedi-

ate deportation. Abrego Garcia's lawsuit there claims the Trump administration is illegally using the

deportation process to punish him for the embarrassment of his earlier mistaken deportation.

A Friday court filing from the Department of Homeland Security notes that "Liberia is a thriving democracy and one of the United States's closest partners on the African continent." Its national language is English; its constitution "provides robust protections for human rights;" and Liberia is "committed to the humane treatment of refugees," the filing reads. It concludes that Abrego Garcia could be deported as soon as Oct. 31.

"After failed attempts with Uganda, Eswatini, and Ghana, ICE now seeks to

deport our client, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, to Liberia, a country with which he has no connection, thousands of miles from his family and home in Maryland," a statement from attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg reads.

"Costa Rica stands ready to accept him as a refugee, a viable and lawful option. Yet the government has chosen a course calculated to inflict maximum hardship. These actions are punitive, cruel, and unconstitutional."

Abrego Garcia has an American wife and child and lived in Maryland for years, but he immigrated to the U.S. illegally as a teenager. □



Kilmar Abrego Garcia joins supporters in a protest rally outside the Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office in Baltimore, Aug. 25, 2025.

Associated Press

Ontario premier says he'll pull ad that upset Trump so trade talks between Canada and U.S. can resume

By **ROB GILLIES**
Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The leader of Canada's most populous province said Friday he'll pull the anti tariff ad that prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to end trade talks with Canada.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford said after talking with Prime Minister Mark Carney he's decided to pause the advertising campaign effective Monday so that trade talks can resume.

Trump announced he's ending "all trade negotiations" with Canada because of a television ad sponsored by Ontario that used the words of former President Ronald Reagan to criticize U.S. tariffs.

"We've achieved our goal, having reached U.S. audiences at the highest levels," Ford said in a statement.

"Our intention was always to initiate a conversation about the kind of economy that Americans want to build and the impact of tariffs on workers and businesses."

Ford said the commercials will continue to run this weekend including during the first World Series games between the Toronto Blue Jays and Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I've directed my team to keep putting our message in front of Americans over the weekend so that we can air our commercial during the first two World Series games," he said.

On Thursday Trump posted, "The Ronald Reagan Foundation has just announced that Canada has fraudulently used an advertisement, which is FAKE, featuring Ronald Reagan speaking negatively about Tariffs."

Trump doubled down on his criticism of the Ontario ads Friday and accused Canada of trying to influence an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court ruling on his global tariff regime.

Trump's call for an abrupt end to negotiations has further inflamed trade tensions between the neigh-



Ontario Premier Doug Ford speaks to reporters following the First Ministers Meeting at the National War Museum March 21, 2025, in Ottawa, Canada.

Associated Press

bors and longtime allies.

Carney said this week he aims to double his country's exports to countries outside the U.S. because of the threat posed by Trump's tariffs. Canadian officials remain ready to continue talks to reduce tariffs in certain sectors, he said.

"We can't control the trade policy of the United States. We recognize that that policy has fundamentally changed from the 1980s," Carney said Friday morning before boarding a flight to Asia.

"We have to focus on what we can control and realize what we can't control."

Carney is trying to secure a trade deal with Trump, but tariffs are taking a toll in the aluminum, steel, auto and lumber sectors.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said talks with Canada have not led to any constructive progress. "Ontario's taxpayer-funded ad campaign on American TV networks that misleadingly edited President Reagan's 1987 radio address about trade is the latest example of how Canadian officials would rather play games than engage with the Administration," Desai said in a statement.

"As President Trump made clear on Truth Social, fur-

ther talks are a futile effort if Canada can't be serious."

The Ontario government has said it would pay about \$75 million Canadian (US\$54 million) for the ads to air across multiple American television stations using audio and video of Reagan speaking about tariffs in 1987.

Ford said earlier this week he had heard that Trump had seen the ad.

"I'm sure he wasn't too happy," Ford said.

He said the aim is to "blast" the pro-trade message to Americans.

"It's real, because it was coming from the best president the country's ever seen, Ronald Reagan," Ford said. □

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EU leaders seek role in Gaza at summit focused on Ukraine and Russia

By **SAM McNEIL**
 Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders are seeking a more active role in Gaza and the occupied West Bank after being sidelined from the U.S.-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

At a summit Thursday in Brussels largely focused on Ukraine and Russia, EU heads of state discussed the shaky ceasefire in Gaza and pledged EU support for stability in the war-torn coastal enclave. The EU has been the biggest provider of aid to the Palestinians and is Israel's top trading partner.

"It is important that Europe not only watches but plays an active role," said Luc Frieden, the prime minister of Luxembourg, as he headed into the meeting. "Gaza is not over; peace is not yet permanent," he said.

Outrage over the war in Gaza has riven the 27-nation bloc and pushed relations between Israel and the EU to a historic low.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen



European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas speaks with the media as she arrives for an EU Summit at the European Council building in Brussels, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025.

Associated Press

announced in September plans to seek sanctions and a partial trade suspension against Israel, aimed to pressure it to reach a peace deal in Gaza.

Momentum driving the measures seemed to falter with the ceasefire deal mediated by U.S. President Donald Trump, with some

European leaders calling for them to be scrapped.

But leaders from Ireland to the Netherlands say that with violence continuing to flare up in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, keeping on the table sanctions of Israeli cabinet ministers and settlements and the partial suspension of a trade deal

gives the EU leverage on Israel to curtail military action.

In the run-up to the ceasefire, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier this month that "Europe has essentially become irrelevant and displayed enormous weakness."

The ceasefire deal came about with no visible input from the EU, and European leaders have since scrambled to join the diplomacy effort currently reshaping Gaza.

The EU's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, has said the EU should play a role in Gaza and not just pay to support stability and eventually reconstruction.

The EU has provided key support for the Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank.

At the summit's conclusion, EU leaders issued a pledge to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, potentially via a maritime route from Cyprus. They also suggested that a West Bank police support program could be extended to Gaza to bolster the stabilization force called for in the current 20-point ceasefire plan.

The EU has sought membership in the plan's "Board of Peace" transitional oversight body, Dubravka Šuica, European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, said this week. □

Interpol-led crackdown on environmental crime leads to 225 arrests in Latin America

By **STEVEN GRATTAN**
 Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A two-month multinational police operation spanning nine Latin American countries resulted in 225 arrests for environmental crime and hundreds of new investigations into illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and gold mining, Interpol said Friday.

The announcement marked the first public comments about the crackdown dubbed Operation Madre Tierra VII, coordinated by Interpol's bureau for Central America.

The May-June operation was assisted by Interpol's environmental security unit, the Paris-based international police organization said. Interpol, which helps countries share intelligence and coordinate cross-border

investigations, said the effort uncovered more than 400 cases of environmental crimes, including illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, fishing violations, illegal mining and pollution offenses.

Among the most frequent

violations were 203 forestry-related crimes and 138 linked to the illegal wildlife trade, it said.

The operation also exposed transnational routes that reached as far away as Europe and Asia, revealing

how organized crime networks are increasingly driving deforestation, illegal mining and the exploitation of protected species across the region.

A wide range of contraband was seized: live birds, reptiles, turtles, primates and big cats, along with 2.4 tons of shark and ray fins. Some 875 kilograms (almost 1,930 pounds) of totoaba, a critically endangered fish and 7 kilograms (15 pounds) of dried sea cucumber. Interpol said the seizures highlight the ongoing exploitation of protected species for lucrative international markets.

The results underscore how organized criminal networks are turning protected species and forests into trans-continental commodity chains, with profound consequences for

ecosystems and climate resilience.

Interpol and partner agencies have carried out similar cross-border crackdowns in recent years, including one along the Paraguay-Brazil-Argentina border that led to 26 arrests for illegal timber trafficking.

Large quantities of illegally harvested timber, including pine, oak, and high-value cedarwood and rosewood, were also confiscated. Rosewood can fetch up to \$6,000 per cubic meter on the black market, according to Interpol, underscoring the profits driving forest destruction.

Investigators identified deforestation hotspots spanning more than 50,000 hectares (193 square miles), many linked to organized criminal groups operating across continents. □



Men search for gold at an illegal gold mine in the Amazon jungle in the Itaituba area of Para state, Brazil, Friday, Aug. 21, 2020.

Associated Press

How Aruban beaches came to be!

(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have start-

ed to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef

is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

Why north deep, but south shallow?



Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean.

This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

Source: archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It

may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be care-

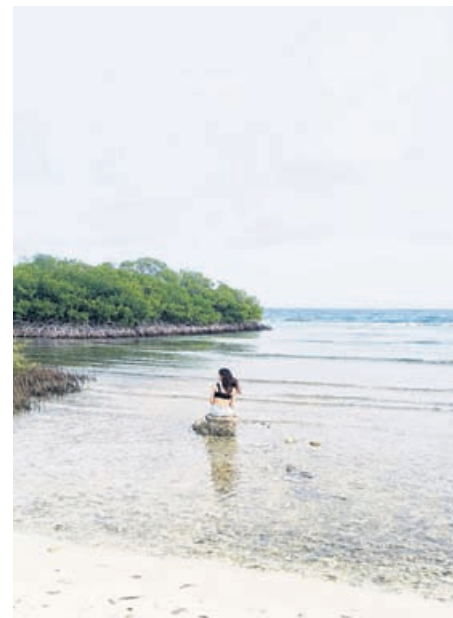


ful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, espe-

cially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



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Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

A quick snack for the road Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups of wheat flour
- 1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 0.5 cup of melted butter
- 1 cup water
- 1 egg

Directions:

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you

are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!



If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit

more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visi-



tors' Center.

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □



Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea

glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat



against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beau-

tiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the

easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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The Aruban way of life; Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguaná Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks,



palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses

looks like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family.



This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and

mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative,

and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there

is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from produc-



ing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some

point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local



parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions

established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were

introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Fill com-

1 New cadet pletely

6 Wine 42 Home

barrel design

10 Gets up

11 Use the

tub

12 Machu

Picchu

people

13 City-based

14 Ham or

lamb

15 Gazelle's

cousin

16 Young

seal

17 Music

category

18 Top rating

19 Explores

caves

22 Appear

23 Greek

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26 Dentist's

request

29 Bit of

ointment

32 Ring wins,

for short

33 Road goo

34 Source

36 One of a

bear trio

37 Eggs buy

38 Ha-

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39 Portents

40 Select

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DOWN

1 Grooms

fastidi-

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2 Rosters

3 Manhunt

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4 Trounce

5 Twisty

turn

6 Complain

7 Ready

to hit

8 Sedimen-

tary rock

9 Thompson

of "SNL"

11 Yokels

15 Charged

bit

17 Fall deco-

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20 Zodiac

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21 Boar's

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24 Doomed

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25 Get com-

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27 Long, long

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28 Pencil end

29 Extinct

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30 Bakery

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31 "Carmen"

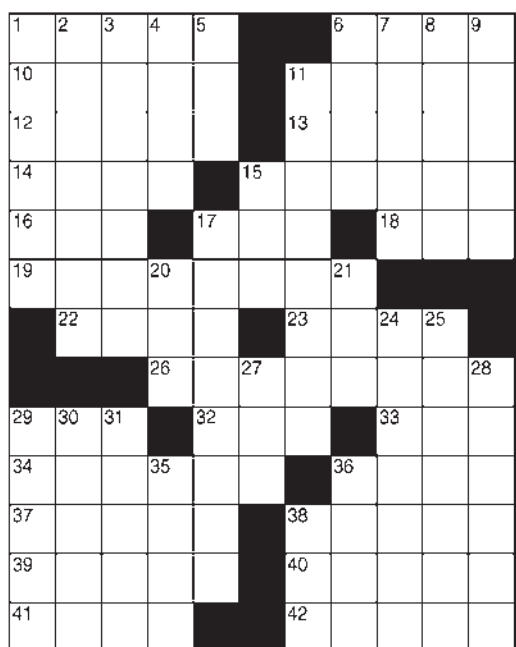
composer

35 Heredity

unit

36 Blanched

38 Bright hue



11-1

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-1

CRYPTOQUOTE

Q X J F A I F H S U V S D N N F F A N

Z X A F Z G F Q X H V S D X B

Z G F D F S H . — F A E U D

C E M W E Q N X Q

Cryptoquote: STICKY FINGERS,
TIRED FEET; ONE LAST HOUSE, TRICK OR TREAT!
— RUSTY FISCHER

Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 14 - 26 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	14	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	15	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
FRI	17	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	07.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	19	NORWEGIAN ESCAPE CARIBBEAN PRINCESS FREEWINDS - Dept.	07.00 09.00 ****	17.00 22.00 22.30	B C E	1 1 -
TUE	21	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 07.00 06.00	23.00 16.00 ****	C I E	1 1 1
THU	23	EURODAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	26	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.



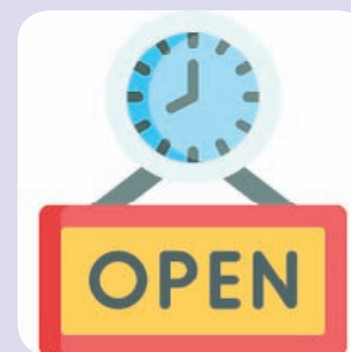
Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

		5			4		9	8
8					7		6	
	2		7	9	3	4		
9	6		4			7		
		4		5		9		
3			9	6			1	
1							5	
			3		1	6		

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/25

Answer to previous puzzle

8	6	3	2	5	9	4	1	7
2	7	9	1	4	3	6	5	8
5	4	1	7	8	6	3	9	2
9	1	8	3	6	4	2	7	5
6	5	4	9	7	2	1	8	3
7	3	2	8	1	5	9	6	4
4	8	7	6	3	1	5	2	9
1	2	5	4	9	7	8	3	6
3	9	6	5	2	8	7	4	1

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/24

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U.S. coffee prices spike due to tariffs and poor weather



Coffee beans are poured into a grinder at a cafe in College Park, Md., on Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN** and **CHRIS RUGABER**
AP Business Writers

It's getting more expensive for Americans to get their caffeine fix.

The average U.S. price of a pound of ground coffee hit \$9.14 in September, a 3% increase from the August average of \$8.87 and 41% higher than in September 2024, according to U.S. government figures. Coffee prices have been increasing sharply since the start of this year.

Consumer prices for food purchased for home use and away from home were 3% in September compared to the same month a year earlier, the U.S. Labor Department reported Friday. The consumer price index, which measures a broader sample of all coffee products, including instant coffee, showed U.S. coffee prices up 19% from September 2024 and flat compared to August.

Nikki Bravo, the co-owner of Momentum Coffee in Chicago, raised prices by about 15% last week for lattes, cappuccinos and other drinks at her four locations.

Bravo said she is paying 15% more for coffee beans compared to a year ago and has started roasting more beans in-house to save money. She gets most of her beans from Africa.

Other items also have gotten more expensive, such as cups and sleeves, she said. In addition, the mini-

mum wage in Chicago rose July 1 to \$16.60 an hour.

"At some point we just had to pass it along, we couldn't continue to eat it," Bravo said.

Stubbornly high inflation has also left consumers uncertain and less willing to splash out on a takeout coffee, she added. According to Toast, a restaurant management system, the average price of a regular coffee at U.S. restaurants in September was \$3.54 compared to \$3.45 a year earlier.

Here's why java is feeling such a jolt and how some are trying to alleviate it:

Tariffs

Outside of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, there are few places in the U.S. that can grow coffee. So 99% of

America's coffee is imported, according to the National Coffee Association, a trade group.

Brazil is the top source for U.S. coffee, supplying 30% of the market. The Trump administration imposed a 40% tariff on Brazilian products in July on top of a 10% tariff imposed earlier. Brazilian producers have begun withholding shipments to the U.S. as they negotiate with American roasters over who will absorb the added cost, reducing supply in the U.S., according to investment bank UBS.

Colombia, which supplies 20% of the U.S. coffee market, is subject to a 10% tariff, but President Donald Trump recently threatened higher tariffs and an end to U.S. aid to Colombia. Vietnam, which supplies 8% of the U.S. coffee market, has been subject to a 20% tariff since the summer.

In September, Trump announced that "unavailable natural resources" could be exempt from tariffs for countries that have reached trade agreements with the U.S. But so far, coffee hasn't won any exemptions.

Weather risks

Heat, drought and other poor weather conditions have hurt coffee production globally in recent years, causing prices to surge. World coffee prices rose nearly 40% in 2024, ac-

cording to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Earlier this month, coffee prices rose after the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declared that La Nina conditions had formed. That raised concerns about the possibility of drought in Brazil.

The risk to coffee production from climate change has some researchers trying to develop more climate-resistant varieties of coffee.

Congress might step in

In September, a bipartisan group of U.S. House members introduced a bill that would repeal all tariffs on coffee.

"We only produce 1% of the coffee that Americans consume. It's one of the best examples of Trump's blanket tariffs making no economic sense," U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, a California Democrat, said. □



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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

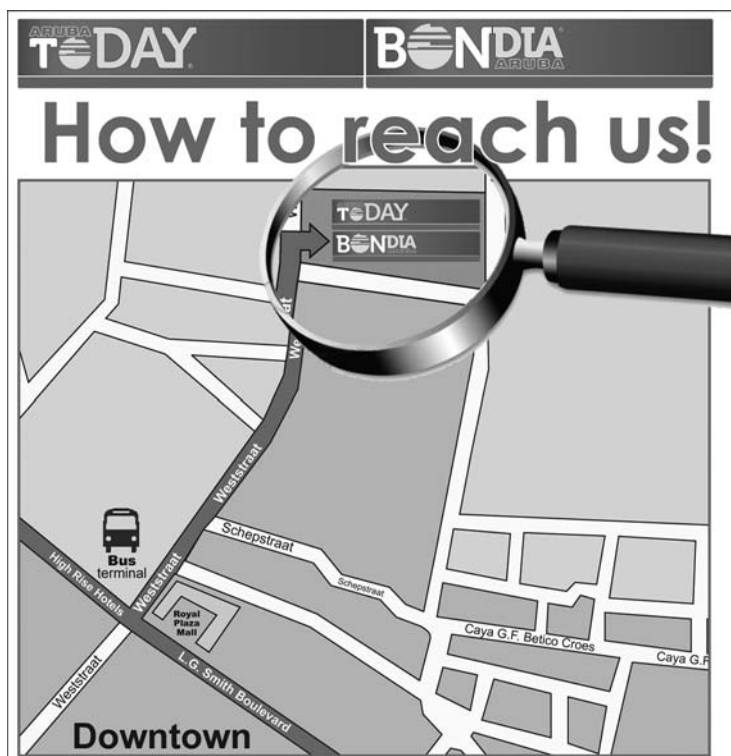
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews



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Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna: Tel. 586 8181

San Nicolas:

Aloe: Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Tessa Thompson finds her own 'Hedda'

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — In Nia DaCosta's "Hedda," Tessa Thompson's titular socialite sows chaos. She manipulates. She cuts people to the bone with a quip. She pours more drinks.

Hedda Gabler, the heroine of Henrik Ibsen's 1890 play, has long been one of theater's most tragic figures, a woman hemmed in by societal convention and her own dread of scandal. She is that, and more, in DaCosta's new "Hedda."

"Many think of her as a woman that's suicidal," Thompson says. "I think of her as someone who's dying to live, and dying to live on her own terms. She might do some pretty questionable things in the pursuit of that, but I think the actual pursuit is really aspirational and beautiful."

"Hedda," which opens in theaters Friday and streams Oct. 29 on Prime Video, is a blistering tour de force for Thompson.

In the two-decade career of the 42-year-old Los Angeles native, no role has given Thompson a more complicated, contradiction-rife character that showcases all her charisma, all her cunning, all her capacity to stir things up. It's a somewhat rare full-view of Thompson, who has generally favored ensembles, from Marvel movies to "Creed." And it's something spikier and sexier for Thompson, whose roles empathetic, kindhearted have often hewed closer to her own thoughtful personality. But in "Hedda," Thompson is brash and brutal.

"Even the dress, taking up that amount of space is really an exercise in taking up space," Thompson said, relaxing in a Toronto hotel restaurant shortly before "Hedda" premiered earlier this fall. "I'm sensitive to people, I would say. I used to say that I'm a people pleaser and then I read a really fantastic thing that said: So you're a people pleaser. How many people are currently pleased with you?"



Actor Tessa Thompson poses for a portrait to promote the film "Hedda" during the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 8, 2025, in Toronto.

Associated Press

Thompson lets out a great laugh. Far from accruing enemies, Thompson has steadily built a wide following for the nuance and intelligence she brings to a wide swath of roles. "Hedda" has her in the (very competitive) mix for a best actress Oscar nomination this year. Whether that comes to be or not, it's a performance that firmly lodges Thompson in a pantheon of Hedda Gablers, from Ingrid Bergman to Cate Blanchett.

"It's daunting but it's incredible to be part of a tradition," says Thompson. "It some ways, it puts pressure on, but in some ways it alleviates it."

This is not the be-all-end-all. There are so many versions, and we're doing our own. And I'm also of the mind that if you're going to take any classical piece, you should have real skin in the game."

Putting a personal spin on Ibsen

And for both Thompson and DaCosta, "Hedda" is a highly personal film. Da-

Costa, who also wrote the adaptation, makes significant alterations to Ibsen's drama while remaining faithful to its tragic underpinnings. Her "Hedda" transfers the play from 19th century Norway to 1950s England. Here, Gabler is queer, but not openly, and instead has taken social shelter by impetuously marrying a wealthy man (Tom Bateman).

On the chaotic night of the film, they are hosting a lavish party at their massive country estate.

One of the most notable guests is Eileen Lovborg (Nina Hoss), a former lover of Hedda's who isn't hiding her sexuality or her ambition. (In the play, Lovborg is a man.) With Eileen is her girlfriend (Imogen Poots) and a new manuscript that seems destined to buoy her career as a writer and professor.

The gender switch allows DaCosta's film to offer a portrait of not just one but a trio of women, each swimming their own way through a white, male pa-

triarchy.

Thompson and DaCosta have been friends since meeting at the Sundance Labs. DaCosta's directing debut, the 2018 indie crime drama "Little Woods," starred Thompson. DaCosta says she wrote "Hedda" for her.

"I knew she could do it and I knew she would surprise me," DaCosta says. "She's kind of a big-sister energy, so loving and kind of the opposite of this character. But she's incredible at playing these characters who have so much going on that they can't show. Like in 'Passing.'"

"Hedda" shares some DNA with Rebecca Hall's 2021 drama. It starred Thompson as a Black woman and Ruth Negga as her white-passing friend in 1920s New York.

"Hedda," likewise revolves around a character who is hiding in some instances ruthlessly so her true nature from both society and herself.

"In that way, I feel like it's really modern. I think we

kind of all do that," says Thompson. "It's death by increments. We sort of have to cut off parts of ourselves to fit inside whatever. I experience that even in Hollywood. There are certain things that fundamentally don't really work for me and I kind of make them work because I want to exist inside of this industry."

A Hedda like many of us Thompson started acting in Los Angeles theater. Her break came in the series "Veronica Mars." Then came parts in acclaimed independent films like "Dear White People" (2014), "Selma" (2014), "Sorry to Bother You" (2018) and "Sylvie's Love" (2020). In between, she's mixed in franchises: as Valkyrie in the MCU, the aspiring singer in the "Creed" trilogy and starring in 2019's "Men in Black: International."

Mostly, Thompson has made a career on her own terms. She came out publicly as bisexual in 2018. With her production company, she has turned producer for films like "Hedda."

"I've found, in a way that Hedda hasn't, a kind of agency," Thompson says. "Starting a production company some years ago was really helpful in that regard, the ability to develop something to feel less like a cog in something moving. Also to be able to, frankly, sometimes take myself out of the frame."

But it's clear that Hedda has left a mark on Thompson. The character, she acknowledges, is one she's still pondering like a puzzle that can't be completely solved.

"There's a such a paradox in her," she says. "She's fixated on existing inside of society."

On the other hand, she's brave enough to do many of the things that you would not do if you have that interest.

But she's not brave enough to do the ultimate thing, which is to decide to live outside of the parameters of what's expected of her. In that way, she's a total, total coward. Like many of us." □

Vikings have to figure out if J.J. McCarthy is the quarterback of the future

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

J.J. McCarthy looked quite healthy when he jumped to avoid Justin Jefferson on the sideline after the All-Pro receiver slid out of bounds following a catch.

McCarthy was the emergency No. 3 quarterback for the second straight game while Carson Wentz took another beating during Minnesota's 37-10 loss to the Chargers on Thursday night.

Was McCarthy held out because he hasn't fully recovered from his ankle injury or was Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell protecting him behind an injury-riddled offensive line that allowed Wentz to take a pounding? Only O'Connell knows that answer. But now it's time to make a decision. Wentz played well in his first three starts, going 2-1. But the veteran quarterback struggled last week against the Eagles and again vs. Los Angeles while playing with a shoulder injury.

At times, Wentz looked like the 2017 version of himself who finished third in NFL MVP voting. Other times, he played like the 2020 version who got benched for Jalen Hurts in Philadelphia.



Minnesota Vikings quarterback J.J. McCarthy (9) warms up before an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press

It didn't help that protection was an issue.

The Vikings are 3-4, already matching their loss total from last season when Sam Darnold filled in for McCarthy.

While Darnold is thriving in Seattle, the Vikings have to figure out if McCarthy is the future. McCarthy had an excellent second half in his NFL debut in Week 1, leading the Vikings to a come-

back win over the Bears. He was awful the following week before his injury.

The Vikings will have a mini-bye ahead of next week's game at Detroit. It would be a difficult spot for McCarthy to return, especially if the offensive line doesn't get any reinforcements.

Still, he was the No. 10 overall pick in 2024 and the Vikings need to know if he's the guy going forward.

"If J.J. is healthy, J.J. will play," O'Connell said. "That's been the case since the injury. That's always been my mindset."

Saquon's struggles

Saquon Barkley set an NFL record last season with 2,504 yards rushing in the regular season and playoffs. But he's averaging just 3.3 yards per carry this season and has only 369 yards rushing through seven

games.

The defending Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles are 5-2 so they're finding ways to win despite a poor rushing attack.

"I'm not really a big numbers guy," Barkley said. "Wasn't really good at numbers in school, either. People use numbers — what's the saying, men lie, women lie, numbers don't? I don't really get caught up in that. I don't think it defines me as a player. I still know what I bring to the table. But I do know we have to be more efficient in the running game. That's something we're focused on. But at the end of the day, our whole goal is to go 6-2 and win another football game. Whatever that looks like, that's what matters."

Barkley shrugged off the suggestion that he was too distracted by off-field commitments. "I do a commercial in March, April, May, and when I do it, I have my team make sure I don't do anything when I'm working on that day," Barkley said. "It would be it on my off day so something I do in April has no effect on how I run in the ball in September or October, to be completely honest." □

Former middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin to run for presidency of Olympic boxing body

By **JAMES ELLINGWORTH**
AP Sports Writer

Former boxing champ Gennady Golovkin is heading into an electoral fight as he runs to become president of World Boxing, the new body aiming to run Olympic bouts at the Los Angeles Games in 2028. Golovkin is one of two candidates announced Friday as running for the post at a congress in Rome next month. World Boxing's founding president, Dutch official Boris van der Vorst, is stepping down. Golovkin's opponent will be Mariolis Charilaos from Greece, a former president of the Hellenic Boxing Federation. Golovkin is likely to be the

frontrunner after he headed a World Boxing delegation to rebuild ties with the International Olympic Committee, which had hinted at removing boxing from the Olympic program for 2028.

The IOC granted World Boxing provisional recognition in February, putting the sport back on track to be in Los Angeles.

Golovkin won an Olympic silver medal in 2004 and, after turning pro, was a long-time world middleweight champion who fought in some of the sport's most lucrative bouts, finishing with a 42-2-1 record. Since retirement, he has become president of Kazakhstan's national Olympic com-

mittee. Golovkin said in a statement that he will work "to secure boxing's Olympic future, restore global confidence, and ensure that every federation, coach, and athlete no matter how small or far away has a fair chance to grow." Olympic status, feuds and sex testing Whoever wins the World Boxing job will have a busy agenda.

Boxing's role in the Olympics came into question over a long-running dispute between the IOC and the International Boxing Association over the fairness of judging, financial issues and the rule of IBA's outspoken Russian president Umar Kremlev.

The IOC ran the last two Olympic tournaments on its own after first suspending and then banishing the

IBA from the Games and has said it no longer wishes to organize the tournament in-house. □



Kazakhstan's Gennady Golovkin smiles during a boxing news conference at New York's Madison Square Garden, Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

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Don Mattingly makes it to World Series in 39th season of professional baseball

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Reaching the World Series for the first time at the end of his 39th season in professional baseball, Don Mattingly gives more than advice to Toronto manager John Schneider. Donnie Baseball provides cover.

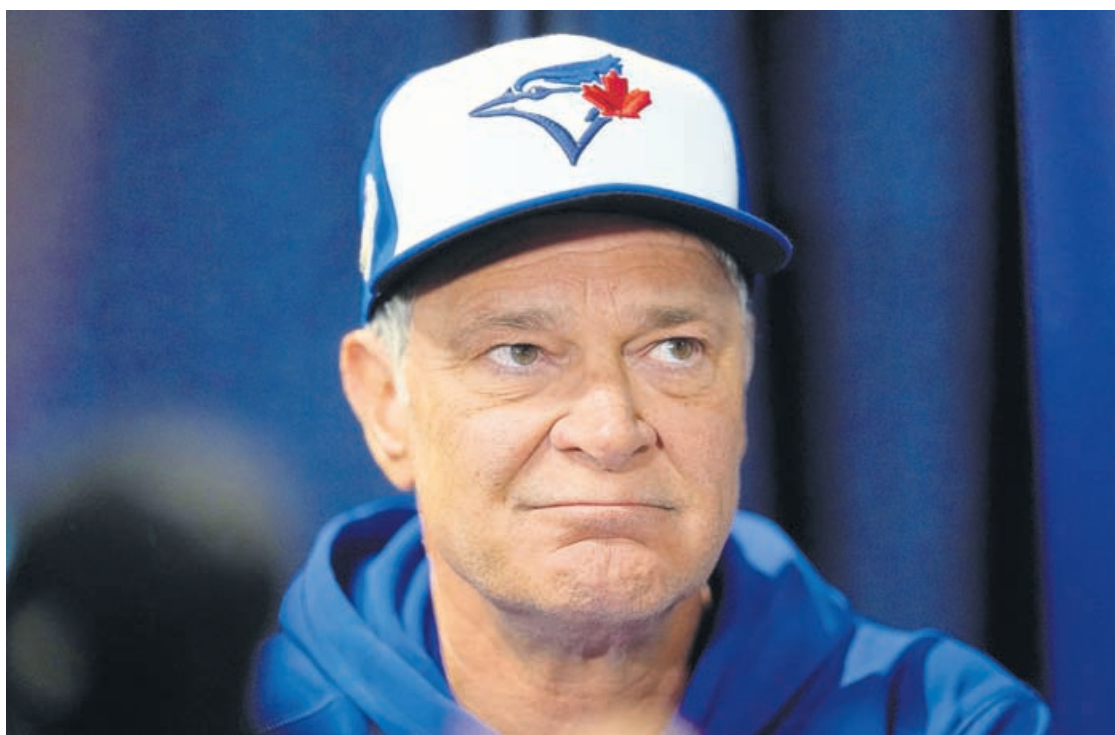
On the night before Game 3 of the Division Series, Schneider brought Mattingly along for dinner at Patsy's, an old Frank Sinatra favorite Italian restaurant in midtown Manhattan. A visiting manager about to take on the Yankees figured he shouldn't be out alone in New York.

"I went with Donnie on purpose, so they went after him, not me," Schneider said. "It was great. A Donnie special."

Mattingly will be Schneider's bench coach when the Blue Jays open the World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday night, in his 10th season as a coach along with 17 as a professional player and 12 as a big league manager.

"It feels good. Obviously, it feels good to get here," he said Thursday. "I don't know how else to say it. It felt great."

Mattingly was drafted by the Yankees in 1979 and he spent 14 big league seasons in the Bronx. He's frequently referred to as the Greatest Yankees Player Never to Win a Title, which comes up when people mention Aaron Judge could eclipse him



Toronto Blue Jays bench coach Don Mattingly speaks during a World Series baseball media day, Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, in Toronto. The Toronto Blue Jays face the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 on Friday.

for that unwanted moniker. "I can't think about it. It's too late now, right?" said Mattingly, 64. "It is what it is as a player. It was different time, for sure. Only one year of my whole career was a wild card."

He was hired as Schneider's bench coach ahead of the 2023 season, just after leaving his job as Miami's manager, and had the additional role of offensive coordinator in 2024. The 45-year-old Schneider grew up in New Jersey during Mattingly's playing days. "I had the Hit Man poster in my room, the pinstripe suit," Schneider said, thinking back to the 1980s Converse ad campaign that pictured Mattingly in a white pinstriped suit while

holding a bat as if it were a Tommy gun. "We took a picture at Yankee Stadium after we won that series and I sent it to him and I said: 8-year-old me is pretty pumped up right now."

Mattingly debuted with the Yankees in 1982, a year after they lost to the Dodgers in the World Series.

A six-time All-Star, nine-time Gold Glove first baseman, MVP and AL batting champion, Mattingly captained the Yankees in his final five seasons. He never reached the playoffs until 1995, when he hit .417 with a homer and six RBIs in the five-game Division Series loss to Seattle.

Mattingly put the Yankees ahead with a tiebreaking, two-run double in the sixth

inning of Game 5 but David Cone blew the lead in the eighth inning. Seattle won on Edgar Martinez's 11th-inning RBI double. Mattingly would have been up second in the 12th.

One month later, Mattingly told the Yankees they should find another first baseman for 1996, and New York went on to win its first title since 1978. Mattingly announced his retirement in January 1997, and his No. 23 was retired that summer. He returned to the Yankees as a coach from 2004-07 under manager Joe Torre and interviewed to succeed Torre but lost out to Joe Girardi.

Mattingly followed Torre to the Dodgers as a coach for three seasons, then

succeeded his old boss as manager and held the job for five years.

Clayton Kershaw, the longest-tenured Dodgers player at 18 seasons, was drafted in 2006 in the same class as Mattingly's son Preston, now the Philadelphia Phillies' general manager. Kershaw said Don had the same dugout demeanor as Torre.

"Every day he was the same guy. He knew what to say. He didn't say a ton," Kershaw said. "There wasn't a lot of like, 'Hey, pat you on the back,' or, 'Hey, great job.' It was almost like an expected professionalism that he expected from us."

Mattingly's Dodgers were knocked out in the NL Championship Series in 2013 and in the Division Series the following two years. He left after the 2015 season and signed with the low-budget Miami Marlins. He departed after the 2022 season, having reached the playoffs only in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season, when he was voted NL Manager of the Year.

"It's really about the players and it's really about help helping them any way you can and you're in a sense a servant," he said. "You want to have that heart that's for somebody else. Your success only comes through them."

Mattingly's production had been diminished by back injuries since at least 1990, and he finished with a .307 career average, 222 homers and 1,099 RBIs. □